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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/215,555	12/18/1998	MAKOTO SANO	102382	7246

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EXAMINER

SINGH, RACHNA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2176

DATE MAILED: 03/01/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/215,555

Applicant(s)

SANO ET AL.

Examiner

Rachna Singh

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 December 1999.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All. b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2. 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: application, filed 12/18/99;
2. Claims 1-15 are pending in the case. Claims 1, 12, 14, and 15 are independent claims.

Priority

3. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). The certified copy has been filed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 1, 2, 12, 14, and 15 cite "PDL". It is required that the applicant spells out the acronym in the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claim 1-6, and 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dennis et al., US Patent 5,588,095, 12/24/96.

In reference to Independent Claim 1, Dennis discloses a system and method of printer banding in which a printed page is broken up into horizontal segments or bands

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that reflect the order of objects on the printed page. See column 1, lines 55-57. The data is stored in the system in a format known as PDL (page description language). The PDL format describes the entire page in a file called a metafile. See column 3, lines 42-51. The PDL data is then transmitted to the printer engine. See column 4, lines 35-45. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time to incorporate a reconstructing, converting, and transmitting means in regards to print data since it was well-known in the art to convert page data into a PDL format and transmit it to the printer.

In reference to claim 2, Dennis discloses a storage means for storing the print data. The entire set of banded primitives is sent to a printer which stores the file in the memory of the printer. The host computer processes the metafile to convert the data into PDL as the file is stored in memory. See column 4, lines 14-44. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include a graphics library in an image processing apparatus to generate data reconstructed in the band units from the content stored in memory as taught by Dennis since a metafile transfers print data to the printer in band units which is also the function of the graphics library.

In reference to claim 3, Dennis discloses an image processing apparatus including a printer engine and storage means for reconstructing and converting the page data. The printer engine comprises the band divider which contains bandable primitives. The host computer transfers the metafile from the metafile storage area to the printer. Thus the printer stores the print data from the metafile and retrieves it once the band units are read and converted into PDL.

In reference to claim 4, Dennis's apparatus analyzes objects that are drawn over two or three bands. These objects are then divided into different bands. See column 5, lines 12-65. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate objects across plural bands since it was common in the art at the time to band across multiple band regions.

In reference to claim 5, Dennis discloses a system in which data can be divided into horizontal bands include bit-maps, character fonts, and shapes. See column 6, lines 52-56 and column 7, lines 1-10.

In reference to claims 6, 8, and 9, Dennis discloses a system in which a set of bandable primitives are transmitted to the printer. A primitive includes alphanumeric characters (text) or graphic objects such as lines and rectangles. See column 3, lines 15-30. While Dennis does not explicitly disclose an approximation to curves with a plurality of straight lines, Dennis does disclose that it is well-known in the art to use various techniques for determining the point of intersection of an object and a band boundary can be determined for any object through the use of simple geometry and mathematics. Thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize approximation to curves with a plurality of straight lines in order to determine the banding regions for curves since it determines the intersection points and boundaries.

In reference to claim 10, Dennis does not explicitly disclose a detecting and determining means; however, Dennis does disclose a task sequence list in which the various bands of print data are stored. The task sequence list is sent to the printer

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where for each band is converted. The list aids in maintaining a certain order of the objects in the print data. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate a determining means for checking to see whether the print data is reconstructed since it was common at the time to provide a list of the print data that was banded.

8. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dennis et al., US Patent 5,588,095, 12/24/96 as applied to claim 1 above and further in view of Sugiyama et al., US Patent 5,859,956, 1/99 (filed 3/97).

In reference to claim 7, Sugiyama discloses an image processing system in which a video image is the print data. The image data is divided into bands and stored into band memory. See column 12, lines 5-10. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate Sugiyama's image data in the apparatus disclosed by Dennis since often the data desired to be printed is image data.

9. Claims 11-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dennis et al., US Patent 5,588,095, 12/24/96 as applied to claim 1 above and further in view of Ramchandran, US Patent 5,805,174, 09/08/98 (filed 10/97).

In reference to Claim 11, Ramchandran discloses scanning in which the medium of bands of images are scanned. This is done only after a full scan has been executed. See column 7, lines 16-31 and column 1, lines 24-35. Both Ramchandran and Dennis are of analogous art in the area of image processing.

In reference to claim 12, Ramchandran discloses a means with which a page description language describing objects is sent to a printer to be converted into raster data. See column 1, lines 14-22 and 36-47. Ramchandran also discloses a buffer for storing rasterized data. See column 4, lines 15-24. Ramchandran also discloses a step of addressing the rasterized data from the buffer for printing. See column 7, lines 32-27. The rest of claim 12 is rejected using the same rationale for claim 1 above. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Ramchandran's method of rasterizing print data with Dennis's method and apparatus for receiving and converting print data into PDL data since both Dennis and Ramchandran are of related technologies in image processing.

In reference to claim 13, Ramchandran discloses a method in which raster data is clipped to meet certain vertical and horizontal boundaries in the buffer. See column 14, lines 1-10.

Claims 14 and 15 are rejected under the same rationale used to reject claims 1 and 12 above.

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

5,604,847 Dennis et al. 2/97 System and Method of Printer Banding

5,577,173 Dennis et al. 11/96 System and Method of Printer Banding

6,006,013 Rumph et al. 12/99 (filed 6/95) Object Optimized Printing System and Method

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5,825,994 Kumada 10/98 (filed 7/92) Image Processing Apparatus and Method

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rachna Singh at 703.305.1952. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00AM-6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon, can be reached at 703.308.5186.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is 703.305.3900.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

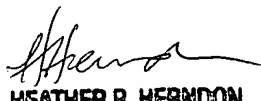
or faxed to:

After-Final 703.746.7238
Official 703.746.7239

Non-Official/Draft 703.746.7240

Hand-Delivered responses should be brought to Crystal park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Rachna Singh
February 25, 2002


HEATHER R. HERNDON
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